Reception Room

COTTON CHATS

TRADE-MARK REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

DRAPER CORPORATION

HOPEDALE MASS.

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In his leading editorial in the Manufacturers Record, Baltimore, June 5th, Col. Richard H. Edmonds says:

GET READY NOW FOR LABOR SHORTAGE

We venture the prediction that before next year the labor shortage will be so great that business men and farmers will be scrambling for men. To meet this condition labor-saving machinery should be brought into use everywhere and as rapidly as possible. Household work can be greatly lessened by modern electric equipment. Work on the farm and in the factory still offers an almost limitless field for labor-saving equipment to supplant or supplement muscle power.

Every manufacturer should as quickly as possible so improve his plant and when necessary so equip it with labor-saving devices of every kind as to be ready to meet the certainty of a great labor shortage.

With an enormous wheat crop assured, at high prices for the farmer; with general improvement in all agricultural conditions; with highway work getting under way on a very large scale; with a marked revival of general constructive activities; with a heavy emigration and but little immigration, the labor situation will soon become acute.

The wise man will be the one who now lays out his entire campaign to utilize to the fullest extent every labor-saving machine available for his factory, his farm or his home.

In its New England letter of June 15

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

of Boston says:

In practically every line of trade activity there is abundant evidence of great and increasing business. Summarized, the business situation contains many favorable factors. Collections are excellent, while failures are conspicuous by their fewness, May yielding the best figures on record. The country has passed through the brief period of uncertainty following the armistice and has settled down on a basis of comparatively high prices, for which the cost of labor and foodstuffs furnishes a firm foundation. Cotton manufacturing, one of the last to gain momentum, is in full swing, with mills deluged with orders for months ahead at

sharply rising prices. With slightly reduced acreage and with condition a bit low, coupled with heavier demand from mills, raw cotton has advanced materially in price.

The cotton goods markets advanced steadily in May, many gray cloths running up 35 per cent., until in a number of instances Government fixed prices were exceeded. From the beginning of March to the end of May the rise in cotton goods prices (print cloth constructions) amounted to more than 80 per cent. The mills are now very well supplied with business for the balance of the cotton crop year, and some contracts run to the end of the year.

GREATER EFFICIENCY IN PRODUCTION

is the chief problem of the hour in the manufacturing end of the business, plenty of work, good wages and satisfactory profits being assured for some little time.

NOW THAT THE WAR IS OVER

increased product is the aim of the cotton mills so as to take advantage of the orders which are pressing and at maximum prices.

The shortage of labor, high wages and reduced hours per day emphasize the importance of labor-saving machinery.

Cotton weaving mills equipped with common looms are handicapped as compared with Northrop loom mills even if the times are prosperous. The prices of cotton goods have in a general way increased more rapidly than the prices of cotton machinery during the war period and the saving made by Northrop Looms soon pays for the investment in such looms.

At this time also Northrop Loom mills may well investigate whether they are fully utilizing the possibilities of their own weave rooms.

Our estimate in 1895 that weavers on narrow print cloths could run sixteen looms each and save for the mills 50 per cent. of the labor cost of weaving was so very moderate that it may have led to establishment of too low a standard as the proper number of looms per weaver. Facts have since demonstrated that it is perfectly easy for weavers on such goods to care for twenty-four to more than thirty looms per weaver and fill their own batteries.

The maximum number of looms per weaver works to the advantage of the weaver in the pay envelope and to the advantage of the mill in its volume of product and saving in cost of weaving.